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ABSTRACT

Stemming from the author's personal experiences, interviews, research, and needs expressed by individuals in the community college field, this book examines issues currently facing community college presidents and argues for a change in leadership to meet the needs of a new era in higher education. Chapter 1 briefly describes the role of the founding presidents of community colleges in fostering growth during the 1960's and early 1970's, arguing that the current community college presidency lacks a comparable focus. After chapter 2 discusses the role of the president as educational leader, chapter 3 suggests that presidents place a greater distance between themselves and their various constituencies by delegating authority and extricating themselves from mundane campus activities. Chapter 4 addresses the question of the appropriate length of tenure for a college president, providing a tentative list of signs that a president has been in office too long. Chapters 5 and 6 draw from survey data to consider the special problems and advantages faced by women, Black, and Hispanic presidents. Using information from a national survey of current deans of instruction, chapter 7 provides a comparison of the characteristics of current and past presidents with those who will be presidents in the future. Finally, chapter 8 offers practical advice for those who make the community college presidency their career goal, including a list of suggestions for seeking the office. (AYC)

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